

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THE REGULAR REPORT.

SENATE.

DISCUSSION OF THE HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS.

Washington, June 20.—Ten minutes after the session opened Mr. DAVIS (Rep., Minn.), chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, introduced the Hawaiian annexation resolutions.

In answer to an inquiry from Mr. HOAR (Rep., Mass.), Mr. Davis said it was the purpose of the foreign relations committee to occupy not only the morning hour, but the entire time of the Senate, in the consideration of the question of Hawaiian annexation.

Mr. Hoar said he desired simply to obtain time at an early date to have considered the conference report on the Hawaiian bill, and he hoped there would be no objection to its consideration.

After the transaction of some minor business, the Vice-President declared the Hawaiian resolutions to be before the Senate.

Mr. FRYE (Rep., Me.) said he hoped the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee would indicate that it should be considered without unnecessary delay. He asked that the taking up of the resolutions be postponed until the next day.

Mr. JONES (Dem., Ark.) said that if harsh measures were to be adopted in the beginning by the friends of annexation he wanted to warn them that it would be necessary to keep a quorum in the Senate Chamber at all times.

"Well, we'll keep a quorum here," replied Mr. FRYE, "as we ought to do at all times."

MR MORRILL OPPOSES.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) then took the floor to address the Senate in opposition to the resolutions.

He said:

I am unable to concur with the learned Committee on Foreign Relations in regard to this annexation, whether by treaty, by joint resolution, by a simple executive order, or in any other manner which leaves any door for their admission into this Union as a State.

The undesirable character of the greater part of the Hawaiian population, gathered by contract to serve long years of semi-slavery by sugar employers, does not warrant and never will justify them in equal representation in the Senate of the United States with Virginia and Massachusetts or with Illinois and California.

It is not to be pushed into the Union without the consent of all the present members. We are not friends of annexation, and we are not friends of the Hawaiian annexation scheme. It is a business matter, and it is a business matter that we are not friends of annexation, and we are not friends of the Hawaiian annexation scheme.

My firm conviction, however, is that annexation of distant islands is not in harmony with the tradition of the Nation of the United States, that it is conspicuously repugnant thereto; nor is it in harmony with the history or even with any of the recorded opinions of our earliest and greatest statesmen.

The Hawaiian Islands, if annexed, would prove a barren military impotence as of commercial value, which is wholly based on our unfortunate manner of a free market for their sugar, and their annexation would be a source of weakness and no more than a burden for the Nation.

For the sake of the Nation, I would not have the back side of the moon. If annexation is to be a source of strength to our Nation, it should be sent forth, at least two or three of our islands, to be a source of strength to our Nation, it should be sent forth, at least two or three of our islands, to be a source of strength to our Nation.

Mr. White suggested that Mr. Davis move an executive session. Pending the discussion of the motion, which Mr. Davis made at once, some routine business was transacted.

A joint resolution concerning the purchase of a book for the reference and works for the Military Information Bureau of the War Department was adopted.

The Senate then, at 5:35 p. m., went into executive session. At 5:45 p. m. the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

THE GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL PASSED.

Washington, June 20.—In the House to-day consideration of the conference report upon the District of Columbia Appropriation bill was continued.

A number of other conference reports upon legislation affecting the District of Columbia were disposed of, and consideration then was given to the conference report upon the bill to open to settlement the Indian Territory.

Without any debate the report was adopted. The House then went into executive session. The bill was passed without debate.

At 5:37 p. m. the House adjourned.

A NEW NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE TO BUILD THE CANAL.

Washington, June 20.—The Senate Committee on the Nicaragua Canal to-day agreed to report a bill providing for the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, but on lines entirely different from those of bills previously reported.

The bill authorizes to-day practically provides for the construction of the canal by the United States. The Maritime Canal Company is to be continued in existence, but all the stock is to be held by the governments of the United States, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

At this point Mr. JONES (Dem., Ark.) made the point of no quorum, and the roll was called, disclosing the presence of thirty-five Senators.

"I made the point of no quorum," explained Mr. Jones, "not because I desire to delay consideration of the pending resolutions. I insist that if the right methods are to be resorted to with which we were threatened this morning a quorum shall remain in the Senate to listen to arguments presented."

This statement brought Mr. WILSON (Rep., Wash.) to his feet. "If," said he, with some heat, "we on this side of the chamber are to be continually embarrassed by the tactics of the other side, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee will exercise his right under the rules to move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of this matter in continuous session."

Mr. TELLER (Rep., Cal.) spoke briefly on the parliamentary situation.

ANNEXATION BY TREATY AND STATUTE.

Resuming, Mr. Bacon addressed himself to the legal and constitutional questions of the issue. He contended that the joint resolution now before the Senate was a direct blow at a prerogative of the Senate, in that the only proper method of annexing foreign territory was by means of treaty.

In this connection he said that the Hawaiian Islands could not be annexed without the concurrence of the Senate. The President would have no more right than to seize Hawaii than he would have to seize Jamaica.

Still, such a seizure would be as legal as would annexation by joint resolution. Mr. Bacon contended that a statute of one country could not be made obligatory upon another country; hence the necessity of a treaty in annexation proceedings, as a treaty only can bind both countries.

The effort in the present proceeding was to make a treaty by statute, and this he contended was irregular.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Bacon was frequently interrupted by Senators with questions bearing upon the constitutional point he was arguing.

Mr. PLATT (Rep., Conn.) inquired whether, if the Hawaiian Government made a cession of territory to this country without treaty, Congress could not accept it.

Mr. Bacon, in reply, maintained that such acceptance would require the assent of the treaty-making power.

Mr. SPOONER (Rep., Wis.) read the first line of the resolutions: "That said cession is accepted, ratified and confirmed, and then inquired, 'What cession?'"

"There has been an offer to cede," replied Mr. Platt.

"Yes," said Mr. Spooner, "but an offer to cede is not a cession."

Mr. FORAKER (Rep., Ohio) inquired of Mr. Bacon whether it would not be competent for Congress to prescribe by law certain terms and conditions on which any independent Government could become a part of the United States, and whether (the terms having been complied with) Congress might not declare the territory annexed.

"I answer the Senator, yes," replied Mr. Bacon, "if you absolutely nullify the Constitution of the United States."

"If a foreign Power were to concede to us a part of its territory," continued Mr. Foraker, "it might be necessary to effect the annexation by treaty, but where, as in this case, the whole foreign country comes in, it is not so properly a matter of territory as of a people."

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